



Dream PCs

Have you dreamed of a PC that could satisfy your every need? Well it's time to wake up! We test six state-of-the-art systems designed to make your dreams come true

IN THIS REVIEW

Carrera Octan Ultimate SLI CS211

CCL NF35-GT Duo

Evesham Axis 64 GSL

Mesh Matrix Titan Vision

PC Nextday Zoostorm 3400+ Advanced PC

Watford Aries Performa 7212

Most of us take up computing for fairly mundane reasons. We need a word processor or an email account; we want to try internet shopping or downloading music. Some people never venture much further than this, and for them a decent budget PC for £499 should suffice.

But others get the PC bug and soon want to try all the exciting PC activities they read about. Every year there are more things to try: editing video and creating DVDs, playing more realistic 3D games or dabbling with speech recognition. An entry-level PC will struggle with these, but pay a little more and the opportunities are endless.

If you're willing to spend £999 you'll get a PC that can fulfil your every desire, plus a few more you don't know about yet. We've tested six PCs to see which comes closest to PC perfection without breaking the £1,000 barrier. We were looking for the graphical power to breeze through the latest 3D games, and enough muscle to slice through demanding video- and image-editing tasks. The systems we tested are all equipped with lightning-quick processors, generous-sized hard disks, and extras such as digital TV cards, SLI motherboards and DVD writers. Best of all, they won't need upgrading for months. So read on to find your perfect PC partner!



CHOOSING A... £999 PC

These PCs have all the bases covered – but if you don't make the right choice your dream machine could turn into a financial nightmare. It pays to know how you intend to use your PC, so read our buying guide

These days £1,000 is a lot to spend on a PC, so you can expect something special. The systems in this review don't cut any corners. Surfing the internet and idling away at simple office tasks won't cause them any problems. They can take just about anything you throw at them. They'll make games such as Half-Life 2 and Doom 3 look their stunning best. Whatever area of computing turns you on, these PCs should be able to cope. However, there are a few key areas to check to ensure that the system you choose has the right power and flexibility for your needs.

SIZE MATTERS

A good monitor is a crucial part of any PC. While a quality monitor won't make a slow, sluggish PC any less frustrating to use, a bad monitor attached to a superb PC can ruin it completely.

You need a monitor that can display everything from the whitest of whites to the darkest of blacks, and reproduce colours accurately. If you'll be doing photo manipulation or video editing you need to be able to trust that what you see onscreen is exactly what you're going to get once you've printed your photos or burnt your home video to DVD.

All the systems here have at least a 17" LCD monitor. Three of them have 19" LCD monitors. If games are a priority, you'll need a monitor with a quick response time, otherwise, fast-moving games will soon begin to look a blurry mess. Most of the monitors on test have a response time of 16 milliseconds (ms), which is fine for all but the most demanding of gamers. However, the Carrera PC stands out with its Iiyama screen's speedy 10ms.

GAME ON

Playing the latest games is demanding work. The PC you choose will need to have a speedy processor, a



▲ A 19" LCD monitor makes text easier on the eye than a 17" model, and makes games and movies much more immersive too

substantial amount of RAM and, most importantly, a powerful graphics card. The arrival of nVidia's Scalable Link Interface (SLI) technology means there's now the option to fit two graphics cards. Carrera's system houses two MSI graphics cards based on nVidia's GeForce 6600GT chipset. This doesn't double performance, but the combination still manages to beat the competition convincingly.

All the systems here are equipped with a generous 1GB of RAM, bar the Evesham system, which sticks with the standard 512MB. More and more games recommend having a gigabyte of memory, and run more smoothly with the extra RAM at their disposal. The extra RAM means that you'll spend less time looking at those interminable loading screens and more time having fun with the latest shoot-'em-up, flight simulator or whatever takes your fancy.

LOOK TO THE FUTURE

When you've just spent £1,000 on a PC, the last thing you'll want to do is spend more money on it. But it pays to make sure that your PC is upgradable in the future.

These systems support many of the newer standards such as Serial ATA (SATA) for connecting hard disks and optical drives and, importantly, the PCI Express standard, so when faster graphics cards or fancy High-Definition TV and video-editing cards hit the shops you'll be able to install one right away.

Mesh and Evesham have chosen to employ SLI-capable motherboards but have left the second graphics card slot empty. This may seem like a waste, but as graphics cards come down in price

you may be able to pick up a second identical card in a few months' time for a bargain price and get a healthy 3D speed boost.

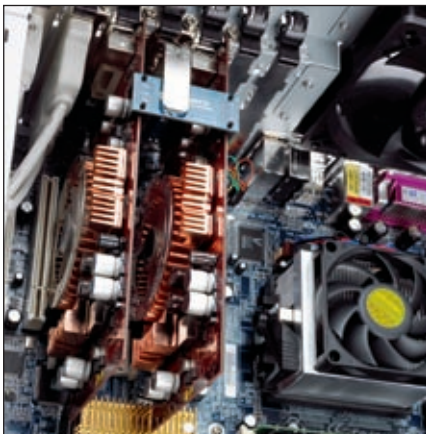
All the PCs on test, except the PC Nextday system, use the newer 939-pin variant of the AMD Athlon 64 processor. This means that you'll have a great choice of faster processors to install when you need one.

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY

Some of the manufacturers have decided to bundle a few extras with their PCs to make them that bit more attractive. Most have supplied a 5.1 speaker set and left it at that, but CCL and PC Nextday have dared to be different. CCL forgoes the 5.1 speaker set, instead supplying a quality set of Logitech 2.1 speakers and an Avermedia USB digital TV tuner. PC Nextday went even further, and provided an Edimax ADSL wireless modem and broadband router, an Edimax PCI 802.11g wireless card, a Twinhan PCI digital TV tuner and an HP PSC 1215 multifunction peripheral too. If you'll use these extras, it's an exceptionally high-value package.

DEEP COVER

Getting a reliable warranty with your chosen PC is incredibly important. Should anything go wrong, it's reassuring to know you can just pick up the phone and get help. If you're buying your first PC or you're just a bit nervous when it comes to computers, the right warranty can make all the difference. It's also worth looking out for a vendor that has technical support lines open on weekends as well as weekdays. All the systems here bar the PC Nextday system have a year of onsite warranty for both parts and labour, so if anything goes wrong a technician will come to you. ➔



Partnering two nVidia graphics cards in SLI mode gives impressive 3D power and provides a sensible upgrade path for the future



▲ Decent peripherals can turn a plain PC into a powerful office tool and home entertainment centre and can help add wireless networking to your home



CARRERA Octan Ultimate SLI CS211

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £999 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford 08700 270900

DETAILS www.savastore.com

Of the three systems in our review that have an SLI motherboard, the Carrera PC is the only one to take full advantage of it.

FEATURES

The Carrera system is housed in a slick-looking Cooler Master case that feels sturdy and well built. Everything is tucked away neatly inside with no loose cables. It's also spacious.

At its heart is a Gigabyte SLI motherboard. Carrera has filled both PCI Express slots with MSI cards based on the speedy nVidia GeForce 6600GT chipset. This doesn't mean cuts have been made elsewhere, though. An Athlon 64 3400+ processor and 1GB of RAM is a powerful combination that backs up its graphical strength.

Just like the Aries PC, the Carrera uses the excellent LG GSA-4163B DVD writer, but there's no DVD-ROM drive. The 200GB Maxtor hard disk is smaller than others here, but it is adequate.

The 17" Iiyama monitor has a rapid response time of 10ms, perfect for the 3D performance on offer. Though the Iiyama may look plasticky and unstylish, its picture quality is great, with strong colours and realistic skin tones. Its external power supply looks untidy, though.

PERFORMANCE

Performance in our application benchmarks was fine. The Carrera PC achieved an overall score of 118. This means it has plenty of power in reserve for demanding Windows applications. As you'd expect for a system with two 6600GT graphics cards, it romped through our Doom 3 benchmark with a score of 75.1fps. That's enough power to play the latest games with ease. The huge score of 14,792 in 3DMark03 puts this system almost 4,000 points clear of its nearest competitor.

VERDICT

If 3D performance is important, this system won't disappoint. It isn't the fastest performer in our application benchmarks, but when it comes to 3D games it's a powerhouse.



Superb 3D performance; good-looking case



Lacklustre speakers; only one optical drive

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3400+, 1GB RAM, 200GB hard disk, two nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, 17" LCD



CCL NF35-GT Duo

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £999 inc VAT

SUPPLIER CCL Computers 01274 471201

DETAILS www.cclonline.com

The CCL PC is an attractive system with some unexpected features.

FEATURES

CCL's Cooler Master case is identical to the Carrera's, and this means it looks smart and feels wonderfully sturdy. There is plenty of room for expansion with seven drive bays free.

Curiously, the Biostar motherboard has both a PCI Express x16 slot and an AGP slot. Given that CCL has filled the PCI Express slot with an nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics card, the spare AGP slot seems pointless.

However, the 19" Belinea LCD monitor is welcome. It's not the prettiest monitor on test and it lacks a DVI input, but it produces bright and vivid image quality. Our greyscale test was free from banding, and colours were reproduced accurately.

Storage is provided by an 80GB system hard disk and a separate 200GB disk for data. This makes reinstalling Windows a simple affair. An NEC ND3540A DVD writer is perfect for backup purposes and supports writing to both DVD+R DL discs and the new DVD-R DL format.

The addition of an Avermedia USB digital TV tuner is a useful bonus, too, offering access to around 30 Freeview digital TV channels.

PERFORMANCE

The CCL PC wasn't a blistering performer by the standards of this group test. Its AMD Athlon 3500+ processor managed to propel it to a score of only 102 in our application benchmarks.

3D performance was better; the nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics card helped the CCL PC achieve 42.8fps in our Doom test. It may not be as speedy as the competition, but it has enough 3D power to play the latest games.

VERDICT

The CCL is a great-looking PC with a quality 19" monitor. Only its performance in our benchmarks let it down slightly.



Good looking; 19" LCD monitor; digital TV tuner



Performance doesn't compare to the best

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+, 1GB RAM, 80GB hard disk and 200GB hard disk, nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, 19" LCD



EVESHAM Axis 64 GSL

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £999 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Evesham 08701 609500

DETAILS www.evesham.com

The Evesham is put together well, but it doesn't perform as well as its rivals. Its comprehensive warranty is reassuring, though.

FEATURES

Evesham's black and silver case is smart looking. Inside the case is an Asus SLI motherboard with a single nVidia GeForce 6800LE graphics card. This may seem an odd choice, but it provides an easy upgrade path for the future.

The twin optical drives are a thoughtful addition, and the Sony DVD writer can burn the new DVD-R DL discs. The Sony is also speedy, so backing up data is quick and painless. Thankfully, the generous 250GB hard disk means you shouldn't have to worry about archiving your data for quite some time. Disappointingly, the AMD Athlon 3500+ processor is backed up by an unimpressive 512MB of RAM. In a £999 system, we would expect at least a gigabyte.

The 17" ViewSonic monitor looks swanky with its black and silver bezel. It breezed through our monitor tests, offering excellent image quality and decent colour accuracy.

A set of Creative 5.1 speakers rounds off the package. Although subtlety isn't their strong point, they sound meaty enough to give excitement to movie and game soundtracks.

PERFORMANCE

The Evesham's performance was hampered by its frugal 512MB of RAM. It struggled in our application benchmarks with the lowest score of 99. For a £999 PC, this is disappointing. Its 3D performance was better; the nVidia GeForce 6800 graphics card helped it along to 50.8fps in our Doom test. The Evesham has enough raw power to deal with demanding games.

VERDICT

The Evesham is an underachiever. Its miserly 512MB of RAM means it is well behind the competition, and only its good build quality and excellent warranty go in its favour.



Well built; great warranty



Poor performance

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3500+, 512MB RAM, 250GB hard disk, nVidia GeForce 6800LE graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-ROM, 17" LCD



MESH Matrix Titan Vision

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £999 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Mesh Computers 08700 464747

DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com

A fantastic PC, with a 19" LCD monitor, superb performance and superlative build quality.

FEATURES

It may not have been pretty but we liked Mesh's old black and pleasingly understated case design. This new model goes for an American muscle car look with a flashy silver grille strapped to its front. The case is well designed, though, and neat and tidy inside.

Mesh, like Evesham, has used an Asus SLI motherboard with just one nVidia GeForce 6800 installed. Add another in future, and you'll be able to squeeze even more 3D performance out of the system. There are no signs of corners being cut anywhere. There's a fast AMD Athlon 3800+ processor with 1GB of RAM. Storage is provided by a 250GB hard disk. Dual optical drives are a welcome addition. The Sony DVD writer supports the new DVD-R DL format, as well as burning to existing formats with impressive speed.

Rounding off the system is a glorious ViewSonic 19" LCD monitor. This may have the slowest response time of any of the monitors on test, but it was still fine for movies and fast-moving games. Image quality was bright and crisp and the colours rich and vibrant.

PERFORMANCE

This system topped our application benchmarks with an impressive score of 125. It is capable of tackling the most demanding tasks you can throw at it. Its 3D performance wasn't quite so exemplary, but it still zipped through our Doom 3 benchmark with a score of 53.7fps. This is enough to have the latest games looking their best. Should you find its 3D power lacking, you could add a second graphics card.

VERDICT

Mesh has provided a superbly specified PC for the money. The 19" LCD monitor is gorgeous and the base unit has more than enough 2D and 3D processing power to scythe through every task.

✓ Excellent performance; gorgeous monitor

✗ Average mouse and keyboard

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3800+, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, nVidia GeForce 6800 graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-ROM, 19" LCD



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 3400+ Advanced PC

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £999 inc VAT

SUPPLIER sales@pcnextday.co.uk

DETAILS www.pcnextday.com

PC Nextday has put a lot of thought into this system; it would make a perfect family PC.

FEATURES

The PC Nextday PC makes a few compromises in its core specification so it can include an excellent bundle of extras. It's the only system on test to use the older style of 754-pin Athlon 64 3400+ chip, which limits its upgradability.

This relatively minor compromise means that PC Nextday can supply our Best Buy HP PSC 1215 multifunction peripheral, an Edimax ADSL wireless router, Edimax PCI 802.11g wireless card and a Twinhan digital TV tuner to boot. This is an impressive array of kit, and perfect if you're buying a PC for the family.

Impressively, the Zoostorm also comes with a 19" LCD monitor. While playing games, some shadow detail was lost with this monitor. But otherwise, it provided rich colours and crisp image quality, despite having only an analogue D-sub input.

A 250GB hard disk and twin optical drives are installed, offering plenty of versatility for backup and storage.

PERFORMANCE

This system performed well in our application benchmarks with a score of 116. This placed it mid-table for Windows performance. Its score of 4,447 in PCMark04 was similarly pleasing. Its 3D performance was weaker; a score of 42.6fps in our Doom 3 test left it in last place and a whisker behind the CCL system. However a score of over 40fps is still an excellent result.

VERDICT

The PC Nextday system sacrifices a little power and upgradability so it can provide a bundle that will delight anyone who wants to kit out a home office. When you factor in all the extras, it really is superb value.

✓ Good performance; lots of useful extras

✗ Older 754-pin Athlon chip

SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3400+, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, nVidia GeForce 6600GT graphics, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, DVD-ROM, 19" LCD



WATFORD Aries Performa 7212

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £999 inc VAT

SUPPLIER Watford 08700 270900

DETAILS www.savastore.com

The Aries doesn't seem very pretty, but on closer inspection it performs brilliantly.

FEATURES

We're quite familiar with the Aries' ugly, plasticky case by now. However, it's neat and roomy inside and offers plenty of space for extra PCI cards, hard disks and optical drives.

The gorgeous 17" Sony monitor looks a little out of place next to the ugly tower, but it's very welcome. Though the lack of a DVI input is disappointing, the screen is illuminated evenly and colours are bright and vibrant.

Storage is capacious thanks to a 250GB Hitachi hard disk partnered with our Best Buy DVD writer, the LG GSA-4163B. The LG is one of the few optical drives to write to DVD-RAM discs, which are perfect for archiving important data. A card reader is a sensible addition, too.

The 5.1 Creative speakers give reasonable quality, but sound a little flat and uninteresting. These speakers tend to struggle at higher volumes, too. We would rather go for a sweeter-sounding 2.1 speaker set.

PERFORMANCE

A powerful AMD Athlon 3800+ processor is allied with a sensible 1GB of RAM. This propelled the Performa system to second place in our application benchmarks with an impressive score of 119. This is a PC that will eat everyday office tasks for breakfast and take on serious video editing with no problems.

The powerful Radeon X800XL graphics card also gave the Performa PC the second-best result in our demanding Doom benchmark; it flew to a super-smooth score of 61.9fps.

VERDICT

Apart from its ugly case, this is an excellent PC. It's well specified and performs excellently in both 2D and 3D applications. However, the Carrera system is an even better bet for gamers.

✓ Powerful; well built

✗ Ugly case; no DVI input on monitor; lacklustre speakers

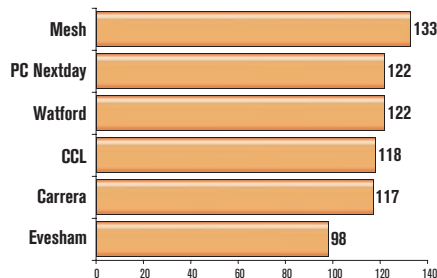
SPECIFICATIONS AMD Athlon 64 3800+, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB ATI Radeon X800XL graphics, DVD+/-RW DL, DVD-ROM, 17" LCD



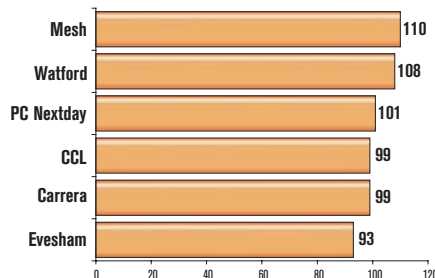
BENCHMARKS

2D Performance Shopper application tests

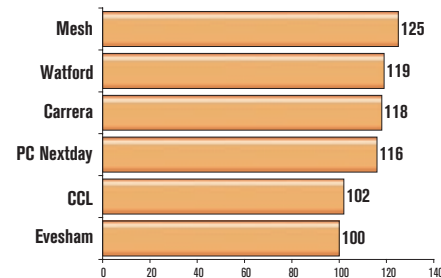
Image-Editing Test



Video-Encoding Test



Overall



SETTINGS We run our application tests at 1,024x768 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

Computer Shopper's 2D benchmarks are designed to show how PCs stand up to the toughest tasks Windows can throw at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word and Excel, so we chose to focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

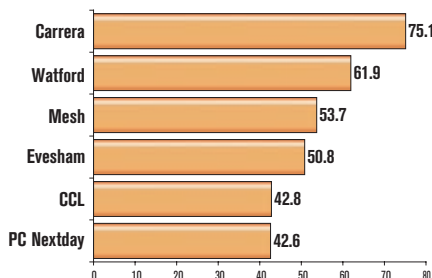
In version 1.0 there are three scripts. Our image-editing test simulates a session of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro, culminating with the memory-intensive composition of a

panorama from a set of digital snaps. Encoding a short video to MPEG-2 format is an extremely processor-intensive task, and one that anyone interested in transferring home videos to DVD will have to tackle. Finally, a set of MP3s is generated by ripping an audio CD.

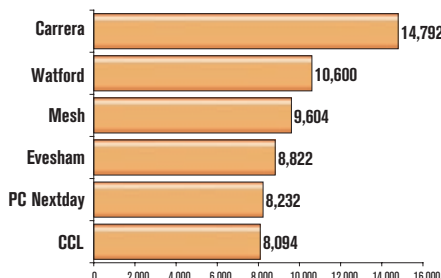
We compiled the tests with the help of our sister magazine for performance computing, *Custom PC*. Figures are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+ system, which scores 100 in all tests.

3D Performance Doom 3/3DMark03

Doom 3 (fps)



3DMark03



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, high quality, 4x AA
WEB www.doom3.com



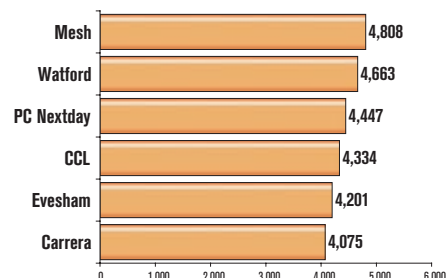
SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

We run a timed demo in Doom 3 to test whether a PC has the power needed to play cutting-edge 3D games with ease. A good score here means that it should cope with any graphically intense 3D game.

3DMark03 is Futuremark's 3D benchmark. It comprises four game tests from four different genres. The workload is representative of games coming on to the market now.

PCMark04

PCMark04



SETTINGS 1,024x768 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

As well as our own benchmarks we test all desktop and notebook PCs using Futuremark's PCMark04. You can download a free version of this benchmark from www.futuremark.com/download.

LABS VERDICT £999 PCs

All the systems here are capable and powerful PCs that can play the latest games, deal effortlessly with demanding video-editing software and breeze through all kinds of office tasks. However, three systems raise themselves way above the competition.

If playing games is your primary concern, the incredible 3D power of the Carrera Octan Ultimate SLI CS211 will be the most tempting proposition. Paired with a fast screen, its twin GeForce 6600GT cards can make all the latest games look their very best.

If your needs are more varied, we'd sacrifice a little of the Carrera PC's 3D power for the Mesh Matrix Titan Vision PC's more rounded set of abilities. It gives great performance, superb build quality and an exemplary specification. It's a truly incredible PC and a deserved Best Buy award winner.

If you're a first-time PC buyer, or just looking for the perfect family PC that has it all, the PC Nextday Zoostorm 3400+ Advanced PC is ideal. It's powerful, and its bundle of hardware will get you printing, scanning, watching TV and surfing the net in no time. It also wins a Best Buy award.

MESH Matrix Titan Vision



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 3400+ Advanced PC





MANUFACTURER	CARRERA	CCL	EVESHAM	MESH	PC NEXTDAY	WATFORD
Model name	Octan Ultimate SLI CS211	NF35-GT Duo	Axis 64 GSL	Matrix Titan Vision	Zoostorm 3400+ Advanced PC	Aries Performa 7212
Rating	★★★★	★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
Processor	AMD Athlon 64 3400+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+	AMD Athlon 64 3500+	AMD Athlon 64 3800+	AMD Athlon 64 3400+	AMD Athlon 64 3800+
Processor speed	2.2GHz	2.2GHz	2.2GHz	2.4GHz	2.4GHz	2.4GHz
Processor socket	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 939	Socket 754	Socket 939
Level I cache	128KB	128KB	64KB	128KB	128KB	128KB
Level II cache	512KB	512KB	512KB	512KB	512KB	512KB
Memory installed	1GB	1GB	512MB	1GB	1GB	1GB
Memory type	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200	PC3200
Maximum memory	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Motherboard	Gigabyte K8N Pro SLI	Biostar NF4ST-A9	Asus A8N-SLI Deluxe	Asus A8N-SLI Deluxe	ECS nForce 4-A754	TULAX480A-VGF
Motherboard chipset	nVidia nForce4	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4	nVidia nForce 4	ATI Radeon Xpress 200P
Memory bus speed	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz	200MHz
BIOS type	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award	Award
PORTS						
USB2 ports (front/rear)	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/6	3/4	2/4
FireWire ports (front/rear)	1/1	0/0	1/1	0/1	0/3	1/1
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	Parallel, 2 PS/2, Serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2, Serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2, Serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2, Serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2, Serial	Parallel, 2 PS/2, Serial
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size (HxWxD)	438x200x480mm	438x200x480mm	442x198x499mm	472x207x450mm	432x213x458mm	435x188x485mm
PCI (free)	2 (0)	3 (2)	3 (2)	3 (2)	3 (0)	2 (2)
PCIe x1 (free)	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (1)	2 (0)	2 (2)	3 (2)
PCIe x16 (free)	2 (0)	1 (0)	2 (1)	2 (1)	1 (0)	1 (0)
AGP (free)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	4 (2)	8 (7)	8 (7)	4 (3)	4 (3)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	4 (2)	3 (2)	4 (2)
Drive bays 3 1/2" (free)	5 (3)	5 (3)	5 (4)	4 (2)	3 (1)	5 (2)
Drive bays 5 1/4" (free)	5 (4)	5 (4)	4 (2)	3 (1)	3 (1)	4 (2)
HARD DISK						
Model	Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6Y080M0)	Maxtor DiamondMax Plus 9 (6Y080M0), Maxtor DiamondMax 10 (6L200M0)	Western Digital WD2500JD (WD2500JD-00HBC0)	Maxtor MaLine Plus II (7Y250M0)	Hitachi Deskstar 7K250 (HDS722525VLSA80)	Hitachi Deskstar 7K250 (HDS722525VLSA80)
Interface	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150	SATA 150
Capacity	200GB	1x 80GB, 1x 200GB (280GB total)	250GB	250GB	250GB	250GB
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Technology	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express
Graphics card	2x MSI NX6600GT-TD128E	Leadtek Winfast PX6600GT TDH	Leadtek Winfast PX6800 LE TDH	nVidia GeForce 6800	Inno3D nVidia GeForce 6600GT	MSI RX800XL-VT2D256E
Graphics chipset	nVidia GeForce 6600GT	nVidia GeForce 6600GT	nVidia GeForce 6800LE	nVidia GeForce 6800	nVidia GeForce 6600GT	ATI Radeon X800
Graphics memory	128MB	128MB	256MB	256MB	128MB	256MB
Graphics/video ports	DVI, D-sub, composite in/out, S-video in/out	DVI, D-sub, component out, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, component out, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, S-video out	DVI, D-sub, composite in/out, S-video in/out
SOUND						
Sound card	Realtek ALC850	Realtek ALC850	Realtek AC'97	nVidia MCP04	Realtek	Realtek ALC850
Sound card outputs	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF in/out	7.1 line out	7.1 line out	Coaxial S/PDIF out, optical S/PDIF out	5.1 line out	7.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF in/out
Speakers	Creative SB5560 5.1	Logitech X-230 2.1	Creative P5800 5.1	Creative P5800 5.1	Edifier e3100 2.1	Creative SB5560 5.1
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3 1/2"	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Memory card reader	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	No	No	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive, XD	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive
Optical drive	LG GSA-4163B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 3X DVD-RAM, 4X DVD+R DL, 40X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM)	NEC ND3540A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 6X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Sony DDU-1615 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony DW-Q28A (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 4X DVD+R DL, 4X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Sony DDU-1612 (16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM)	Aspen DUW1608 (16X DVD+R, 8X DVD-R, 4X DVD+RW, 4X DVD-RW, 24X DVD+R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM), Aspen DVD-1648 (16X DVD-ROM, 48X CD-ROM)	LG GSA-4163B (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 3X DVD-RAM, 4X DVD+R DL, 40X CD-R, 24X CD-RW, 16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM), Sony DDU-1612 (16X DVD-ROM, 40X CD-ROM)
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	17" LCD	19" LCD	17" LCD	19" LCD	19" LCD	17" LCD
Model	Iiyama E435S	Belinea 101902	ViewSonic VX715	ViewSonic VX910	AOC LM925	Sony SDM-S73B
Pixel response time	10ms	16ms	16ms	20ms	16ms	16ms
Inputs	DVI, D-sub	D-sub	DVI, D-sub	DVI, D-sub	D-sub	D-sub
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Internet	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro	Microsoft Wireless Multimedia 1.0A	Logitech Black Internet	Microsoft Wireless Comfort 1.0a	Logitech Cordless Internet Pro
Mouse	Microsoft Basic Optical 1.0a	Logitech Cordless Optical	Microsoft Wireless Optical 2.0A	Logitech Basic optical	Microsoft Wireless Optical 1.0a	Logitech Cordless Optical
Keyboard/mouse rating	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
Extras		Avermedia DVB-T USB 2.0 digital TV tuner			Edimax AR-7024WG 54Mbit/s Wireless ADSL Modem with Router, Edimax Wireless EW-7128G LAN PCI Network Adaptor 54Mbit/s, HP PSC 1215 multifunction device, Twinhan PCI digital TV card	
SOFTWARE						
Software included	Microsoft Works 8, PowerDVD 5, Roxio CD/DVD suite 7, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004	Norton Antivirus 10, Sun StarOffice 7, CorelDraw Essentials 2, Marco Polo Travel Routing Europe 2004, Nero OEM suite including Nero Burning ROM 6.3, CyberLink PowerDVD 6, Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time, Splinter Cell: Pandora Tomorrow	E-Trust Antivirus 7.1.192, Microsoft Works 8, Roxio Easy CD Creator Basic DVD 7, Sonic Cineplayer 2.01, Adobe Reader 6	Microsoft Works 8, CyberLink PowerDVD 6, CyberLink Power2Go 4, CyberLink PowerProducer 3, CyberLink PowerDirector 3, CyberLink PowerBackup 1.1, CyberLink PowerCinema 4, CyberLink MediaShow 3	Microsoft Works 8, Ahead Nero, Videostudio	Microsoft Works Suite 2005, PowerDVD 5, Roxio CD/DVD suite 7, Panda Antivirus Titanium 2004
Operating system	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home	Windows XP Home
Operating system restore option	Restore CD and partition	Windows CD	Restore CD	Restore CD	Windows CD	Restore CD and partition
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts warranty	One year onsite	One year onsite	First and second years onsite, third years RTB	First year onsite, second and third years RTB	One year collect and return, three years onsite on monitor	One year onsite
Labour warranty	Five years RTB	Three years RTB	First and second years onsite, third years RTB	First year onsite, second and third years RTB	One year collect and return, three years onsite on monitor	Five years RTB
Technical support times	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, 9am-1pm Sat	Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, 9am-4pm Sat	9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat	9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat	9am-6pm Mon-Sat	Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, 9am-1pm Sat
Company founded	1972	1995	1984	1987	1993	1972
Technical support staff	20	10	84	42	3	20
Employees	130	100	422	275	71	130
Price including delivery and VAT	£999	£999	£999	£999	£999	£999
Price including delivery	£850	£850	£850	£850	£850	£850
Contact	Watford Electronics	CCL Computers	Evesham	Mesh Computers	PC Nextday	Watford Electronics
Phone	08700 270900	01274 471201	08701 609500	08700 464747	Internet only	08700 270900
Web	www.savastore.com	www.cclonline.com	www.evesham.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.pcnexday.co.uk	www.savastore.com